

# Army Correspondence.

CAMP MINNER, Ypsilanti, Jan'y 12, '62.

FRIEND BARNES: Somebody in your town did send to our Camp the last two numbers of your paper. One was the full size, and the other presented the "News" on the half sheet. It was the first remembrancer in the way of newspapers that has reached us from Grand Haven. I name it because remarkable in view of the fact that one of our Companies is made up mostly of recruits from Ottawa County, and Grand Haven having furnished so very many of them we hoped to have been remembered, at least by you when sending your paper out for the benefit of mankind. But it seems that even your brethren in arms, when out of sight, are out of mind, and, therefore, whoever he may be, that, reckless of consequences, sent the said papers hitherward, he must be answerable for this reply, the effect of the venture. I confess to a careful scanning of the contents, even to the advertisements, to complete the panoramic vision of the mind and matter, business and ethics, of your town. So unexpectedly have you claimed attention from us that only in kind do I hope to repay said favor, and with such modesty as is proper and fitting to assume, I shall hope to interest, at least some old friend, if not all the readers of the News.

The 14th Regiment, Michigan Infantry, Col. R. P. Sinclair commanding, date from this city at present. As a recruiting point, or source from which to add to our numbers, I judge that were all other sources diverted, only a mathematical mind, stimulated by a study of Malthus on Population, could hope to give a definite idea of the time necessary to fill up the Regiment; but, as a rendezvous, we are most fortunate in our location. One reason why no considerable number can be enlisted here, is, because, to other Regiments already in the field, Ypsilanti is deemed to have furnished her quota. The Government has provided, by renting, a large four-story brick block as barracks for the troops. Any of you passing in your journeyings along the Michigan Central Railroad are within a stone's throw of the building, when the cars stop at this place. On the right of the track, as you go West, look, as the cars stop, and see how provident Uncle Sam and our Colonel have been in regard to our comfort. A good parade ground in front, and the range of wide streets through and about the city for marching, gives all such convenience we need. Other two such places as are Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor, in size, wealth and educational facilities, within the sweep of a compass whose points measure but four and a half miles apart, I can not now call to mind. Certainly Michigan does not furnish a parallel—I know of none elsewhere in the States.

"Ypsilanti" has no other association than the quaintness of the name—a word the pronunciation of which is suggestive of a hiccup. I learn that the town is named to commemorate the deeds of a Greek warrior, whose bravery and skill was a subject of interest, and whose praise was in the mouths of all, about the time this place was first settled, and his name was chosen to settle the then (as it is often now,) earnest question, "what shall we call it?" It was satisfactory then, and doubtless it is now. It certainly is "Greek" to me that Americans will go so far for a name, when the euphonious Indian language is replete with them, and has a pleadingly prior claim for attention.

This beautiful city is built on the banks of the Huron—a stream that in its windings to the Lake is an important feature to scenery of rare beauty—the "Classic" Huron to many a mind—for its waters lave the walls of Michigan's educational strength. The University at Ann Arbor, and the Normal School, in this city, claim sons and daughters throughout the land, and in their remembrance of Alma Mater the flowing Huron is the wreath that glimmeringly entwines the brow.

But I have wandered. I was thinking of names just now, and have wondered why the word HURON does not belong to a village, town, or city, along the banks of this lovely stream. Some one, "free-gratis-for-nothing" like, stuck "Port" against it, and dubbed a place at the entrance of St. Clair River with the invention, and it goes by the name of Port Huron—but no one has even ventured the word, or an attachment and the word, for this region. Now read over a few Indian names as I give them and close the exercise with the name of this city, and I

will have done with the subject, and will change my tune: Ontario, Minnesota, Itasca, Iscon, Niagara, Huron, Odana, Menona—Ypsilanti!

On Tuesday last seven Companies of our Regiment were filled to the requisite number, and ever, and were mustered into the United States service by Capt. H. R. Minner, U. S. A. Three more remain to be filled before we can consider ourselves complete as to numbers. I do not remember how many, but probably from one hundred and fifty to two hundred men will yet be required. Lately we have had large accessions from Ingham and Shiawassee counties, and altogether they are a fine body of men. Military discipline and the regular daily drill will make effective the brain, and bone, and sinew, of this body of men in a way creditable to themselves and the State. The will is here, alive and earnest, for patriotic soldiery. How many men can be sent from Grand Haven?

The women of this city have regularly organized societies, the object of which is to prepare and send such articles as soldiers need, which the army regulations do not provide, and for the sick and suffering in the hospitals. Many a choice box of such blessings are sent from here to the Regiments now on the field. Nor are we forgotten in their labor of love, for our need of many of the comforts of life has drawn heavily upon their sympathy, and we are ready to vouch for their thoughtfulness and liberality. We hope to be remembered by that bevy of girls in your village who so industriously planned and schemed, and plead, and worked "for the soldiers," in that room, up stairs, in the building near the Post-Office (Don't forget the 14th Michigan Infantry, when you are packing up and sending off those heavy boxes). But as this sounds like "passing around the hat" I'll say no more on this subject. I'll begin with Ypsilanti once more.

You need not think that our whole time is occupied in admiring our quarters, and drilling, and finding fault with the name of the city, and in begging for socks, and towels, and mittens, for the soldiers, or for sheets, &c., for the hospital. No indeed. We find time for a laugh now and then, although I may not make the laugh come, or you see the place where it comes in. I'll give this communication variety by an attempt to call up an item or two that I certainly did laugh at. Among the recruits brought to the Surgeon for examination was a genius from Old Erin—keen, witty, but as importunately sedate in his utterances as solemnity itself. He passed a good examination till the Doctor took off his hat, and noticed he was slightly bald. "How is this? You are a young man—not thirty yet, and bald?" Patrick raised his hand in the true military style, "Yer honor, it's merely the effect of a villainous practice I had in me younger days of carrying breaks in my hat!"

The Surgeon one day had examined sixty recruits, was tired, of course, and was congratulating himself that his work was done for that day, in that line, when a stalwart six-footer presented himself for examination. The doctor omitted asking him what Company he belonged to, but told him to strip off his clothes, and made a critical examination as he is always sure to do, found him all right, tough and hearty and would make a capital soldier. "What Company do you belong to, sir?" (With a Yankee twang.) "Nary Company, Doctor; I come into teown this afternoon to sell a load of wood, and happened 'round this way, and I kinder tho't I'd stop in and see if I was second!" "Sound! Clear out of here!" And the Doctor kicked his clothes into the street, and Sawney surprisingly went out in search of them, not appreciating the Doctor's haste, any more than the doctor did Sawney's turn of mind.

We have been very fortunate in having the experience and skill of Col. Jas. R. Smith, of the U. S. Army, afforded us to instruct our corps in drill. In the evening the commissioned officers are assembled in "Follett Hall," and three hours, at least, of faithfully given instruction is afforded them. In the morning the non-commissioned officers are assembled for a like practice, in the Hall of the Barracks, to which the commissioned officers are required to be present. I learn that Gen. McClellan has ordered him to Detroit, to fill some important position there, and sadness and disappointment is felt by us all, for we cannot hope to be favored with such experience combined with the like

kindness and patience of this truly good man. So much to call for affectionate remembrance is rarely found in the strict military disciplinarian. Skill and experience will challenge respect, but not always for the man who is possessed of them. We had all hoped to be fitted for service by Col. Smith. The question with us, just now, is, who will supply his place? for he leaves to-morrow.

I find that I have made rather a lengthy letter for your attention, but, as I said when beginning, "somebody" is to be blamed for this. ODANA.

## THE NAVAL DEPOT.

It is with pleasure we notice the activity that characterizes the steps taken to secure the location of the Naval Depot at this point.

Surely a candid mind can not but see the great advantage that we possess over all competitors in the inaccessibility of our harbor, when properly fortified, to an invading fleet, its capacity as a place of rendezvous for our own forces, the depth of water, sufficient to float any craft that can successfully navigate the Lakes, and, above all, the immense quantities of timber necessary for ship building, and that of the best of quality.

The Governor of Wisconsin has called the attention of their Legislature to the subject of the Naval Depot, and strongly recommended Milwaukee as a favorable point; but we are confident that a fair comparison of the advantages of the two points can not fail to show the great superiority that Grand Haven possesses.

Rev. Wm. M. FERRY returned last week from the eastern section of the State, and from him we learn that a perfect unanimity there prevails in favor of Grand Haven. Great credit is due to him for the energy with which he has pushed forward the subject, and we trust he will be well rewarded for the interest evinced, and the time devoted by him to the matter by the hearty appreciation of his fellow-citizens. His long residence in Michigan, and his intimate acquaintance with the resources of our own locality, has peculiarly fitted him to successfully combine the weight and influence of the State in our favor.

It was deemed necessary that some one should proceed to Washington, in order that our interests and advantages should be properly represented there, and on Monday last, in accordance with the resolution of the Board of Supervisors, Hon. THOS. W. FERRY left for that point.

Whatever may be the result of the action of Congress, we can feel that Grand Haven has spared no energy, time or influence, in a fair, honorable representation of her advantages, and, if dispassionately weighed, we have no fear but that a right decision will be attained.

## THE NAVAL DEPOT.

Preamble and Resolutions relative to the location and establishment of a Naval Station and Dock-Yard at Grand Haven.

Whereas, The disturbed state of our country, consequent upon the Southern rebellion, and the constitutional efforts of the Federal Government to restore unity and peace, has led to complications with Foreign countries, forcing upon the General Government the necessity of providing adequate means of self-defense and protection of the vast commerce, and other property of the North-West, along our frontier lakes, the citizens of this State deem it of the gravest importance that the government of the United States should promptly locate and establish a Naval Station and Dock-Yard for the construction of armed vessels for such protection. And,

Whereas, The Legislature of our State at its present extraordinary session, considering the exposed situation of Michigan, as not only nearly surrounded by navigable waters, but proximate to foreign shores, and thereby imperiled by invasions, imminently endangering the commerce and other property of its citizens, and having, by joint resolution, designated Grand Haven as the only point within the State upon which all could unite, as the most suitable place for such Naval Station and Dock-Yard, and formally instructing and requesting our Senators and Representatives in Congress to secure at said place the location of such naval establishment. Therefore,

Resolved, That all honorable means should be employed by the citizens of the State, and more especially of this vicinity, to urgently press upon the attention of Congress the peculiar facilities and adaptation of the harbor of Grand Haven for the important object of naval construction and the defense of the immense commerce and other property of the North-West.

Resolved, That in pursuance of this object, Hon. Thos. W. Ferry be and is hereby appointed to represent this immediate interest by cooperating with our delegation in Congress in the use of such efficient measures as will secure to Grand Ha-

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